

### REMARKS

The specification has been amended to refer to the parent application, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78.

Claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 16, 17 and 18 have been added.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of those claims are respectfully requested.

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Applicants have included as part of the art cited on Form PTO-1449, the art of record in the parent application. Pursuant to MPEP § 609, no new copies of such art are provided. However, if the Examiner would like a copy of any of the references cited on form PTO-1449, Applicants will gladly do so upon request.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>
09/467,983	12/21/99	2812
09/512,349	2/24/00	2879

One copy each of the aforementioned U.S. applications is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,473,063 issued from Application No. 08/653,903;  
U.S. Patent No. 6,621,475 issued from Application No. 08/803,449;  
U.S. Patent No. 6,409,563 issued from Application No. 09/511,386;  
U.S. Patent No. 6,490,433 issued from Application No. 09/512,033;  
U.S. Patent No. 6,661,179 issued from Application No. 10/227,346;  
U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002-0039870 A1 issued from Application No.

09/960,744; and

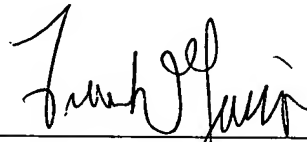
U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002-0122018 A1 issued from Application No.  
10/067,796.

Each of the U.S. Applications just mentioned is of record in the parent  
application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James J. Scinto", is written over a horizontal line.

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